

REMARKS

The present application contains claims 1-70, the status of which is as follows:

(a) Claims 2-3, 6, 10-13, 24-28, 32, 38-42, and 46-49 are as originally filed.

(b) Claims 4-5, 8-9, 14, 16-17, 30-31, 33, 44-45, 50, 52-53, 55, 59, 63-64, and 67-68 were previously presented.

(c) Claims 1, 19, 23, 37, 60, 61-62, 65-66, and 69-70 have been currently amended.

(d) Claims 7, 15, 18, 20-22, 29, 34-36, 43, 51, 54, and 56-58 have been canceled without prejudice.

No new matter has been added. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Allowable subject matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for his indication that claims 18, 19, 35, 54, 55, 60, 61, 65, and 69 would be allowable subject to being rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, the Applicant has:

- amended claim 1 to include all of the features of allowable claim 18, canceled claim 18, and accordingly amended the dependencies of claims 19 and 61-62;

- amended claim 23 to include all of the features of allowable claim 35, canceled claim 35, and accordingly amended the dependencies of claims 65-66;
- amended claim 37 to include all of the features of allowable claim 54, canceled claim 54, and accordingly amended the dependencies of claims 69-70; and
- rewritten claim 60 in independent form including all of the features of base claim 1 and intervening claims 11 and 14.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 23, 37, and 60 are now in a condition for allowance and that the remaining claims currently pending in the application (claims 2-6, 8-14, 16-17, 19, 24-28, 30-33, 38-42, 44-50, 52-53, 55, 59, and 61-70) are directly or indirectly dependent from a respective one of these independent claims, and are therefore also allowable, being of narrower scope than the independent claims from which they respectively depend.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102 and 103

Claims 1-6, 8-14, 37-42, 44-50, and 59 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Nakagaki '077.


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Claims 16-17, 33, 52-53, 62-64, 66-68, and 70 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakagaki '077 in view of Moody '310. While not necessarily agreeing with these rejections, Applicant has amended the claims as described hereinabove in order to expedite the issuance of a patent on the subject matter found to be allowable. The Applicant reserves the right to prosecute these rejected claims in a continuation application.

The Applicant believes the amendments and remarks presented hereinabove to be fully responsive to all of the grounds of objection and rejection raised by the Examiner. In view of these amendments and remarks, the Applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims in the present application are now in order for allowance. Notice to this effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

BROWDY AND NEIMARK, P.L.L.C.
Attorneys for Applicant(s)

By 
Norman J. Latker
Registration No. 19,963

NJL:ma
Telephone No.: (202) 628-5197
Facsimile No.: (202) 737-3528